

NATION-LOVING MULTITUDE MAKES LIBERTY SHRINE RING CHEERING LOYALTY ADDRESSES

Mighty Multitude Lifts Voice on Independence Square as World Democracy is Called the Destiny of America by Senator-Elect

GERARD GIVES MESSAGE TO AMERICA THROUGH THE EVENING LEDGER

"UPHOLD the President in his fight for American rights and for the democracy of the world."

James W. Gerard, former Ambassador to Germany, who was scheduled to be the principal speaker at the Independence Square patriotic rally, but who was kept in New York by a sudden illness...

"It is most appropriate that this great meeting should take place in Pennsylvania, the great arsenal of our Republic, and in Independence Square, so intimately connected with the birth of our nation."

"With our great President to guide me, I have been working hard to avoid war during the last two years."

"He has done everything possible to maintain an honorable peace. He only declared for war after exhausting every effort for peace. The whole nation knows this and is united in sustaining him in his new and difficult course."

"Uphold the President in his fight for American rights and for the democracy of the world."

Senator Johnson in his ringing address said he brought the message of the West to the men of the East, and the West had the same national purpose as the East; that it stands shoulder to shoulder with the East and that it will follow the flag with the East.

The thousands in Independence Square, Mr. Johnson said, was perfectly voicing the spirit of America when they gathered in Independence Square, the nation's most hallowed shrine.

Hiram W. Johnson, on next Monday a Senator of the United States, today addressed in Independence Square, the birthplace of American liberty, the most wonderful patriotic meeting ever held.

Tens and tens of thousands of persons—there may have been 200,000, so vast was the throng—heard him picture the United States leading all peoples to the goal of world democracy.

It was a meeting of superlatives. The crowds were bigger, the spirit finer, the hope higher than at any meeting before, and for a dynamic expression of patriotism there never was anything like it.

From East and West came the speakers; from all over this part of the country came guests; from everywhere in the city came the audience. It made one's loyalty and patriotism rise to the highest even to see it from afar, so noble was it in its tremendous force.

One felt strong when sensing the wonderful spirit that lay behind that force.

President Wilson would have loved to be there. How that meeting must give him still more courage to go ahead, even though he wasn't there! Such unanimity of purpose to back him up completely!

No partisanship, only Americanism. That was the high point of the crowd's thought.

The great meeting went on record as in favor of universal military training. When the question was put in the form of a resolution, there was a mighty roar of "Yes!"

Independence Square in all its rich associations from its beginnings in the history of this country never spelled a richer, finer, more hopeful message. It seemed to spell Humanity in the finest idealism of the world; its crowded spaces held men and women, but its spirit was of the great peaceful future for their children—a better future to be got out of the militant willingness that rose from that glorious crowd today.

"The destiny of America?" asked Mr. Johnson.

"His answer was: 'It must be the ultimate destiny of world democracy.'"

No more may the United States selfishly consider only the interest between its own immediate confines, for he said:

"Ours is not alone the heritage of freedom of a people within definite boundaries. Ours is a heritage of democracy triumphant."

Mr. Johnson's Address

Ours is not alone the heritage of freedom of a people within definite boundaries; ours is a heritage of democracy triumphant, and our destiny must be the ultimate destiny of world democracy.

America must keep the fires burning. The beacon light on the mountain top to which the eyes of all mankind may turn.

But yesterday China, benighted with her centuries of superstition and ignorance, looked across the Pacific for the light, and fashioned her Government with the spirit of America.

Today Russia, autocratic Russia, after centuries of cruel despotism, with wistful vision across the Atlantic, has seen the beacon of liberty and has added to the world a new democracy with the spirit of America.

ETERNAL VIGILANCE

But democracy to survive must ever be ready to protect its own. Every normally constituted man abhors war.

A nation such as ours, consecrated to freedom, dedicated to equality among men, determined that all of God's people must share in God's blessings and have their fair share of common happiness and a more comfortable place in the sun, will suffer much, ay, to the very last, before engaging in bloody strife; but a nation such as ours, dependent for its perpetuity upon the character of its citizenship, that dare not maintain its ideals and will not protect the lives of its citizens, sows within itself the seeds of dissolution.

We should have no selfish war of aggrandizement or aggression. We have the love of conquest. We would only, when imperatively compelled by the transgression of our rights by the destruction of our lives, enter into combat and strike about every American citizen. We would make it his buckler and his shield and his absolute protection, wherever he might be, either on land or sea.

JOHNSON FIGHTS FLAME

Johnson's speech, of course, was the one that touched the highest point of patriotism.

It was one that almost rivaled his own that was the indignation of the crowd.

LOYALTY



THE KEYNOTE

GERMAN UPEHAVAL LED BY SOCIALISTS

Reform Movement Grows. Reichstag Names Revision Committee

CENSORSHIP LID LIFTED

AMSTERDAM, March 31. Under Socialist leadership, the reform movement in Germany has made further progress.

The committee will begin its work at once, it was said in the dispatches.

All reports from Germany show that the success of the Russian revolution is making its influence felt more and more in the Kaiser's dominions.

The Socialist newspaper Vorwaerts declares that no compromise is possible on the great questions of national reform.

The Post of Munich goes even further, saying: "In the past few weeks the world has become another place through Russia's becoming a democracy and the probable entry of the United States into the world war."

Germany now stands against an alliance of world democracy, and the people of the world are persuaded and are daily becoming more and more convinced that the triumph of freedom in the world is impossible so long as Germany remains what she is.

Other papers point out that Doctor von Bethmann-Hollweg, the Chancellor, left a loophole in saying that the time is not appropriate for dealing with reforms.

The Austrian Socialist leader, Victor Adler, declared in a public speech at Vienna that the present situation is favorable for a resumption of peace activities by the Central Powers.

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BRITISH CAPTURE FIVE MORE TOWNS

Advance One Mile on Seven-Mile Line Toward St. Quentin

FRENCH GAIN ON LAON

WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES AFIELD, March 31.

British troops today swept forward in a mile advance over a seven-mile front in the Hindenburg region, seriously menacing the important German base city of St. Quentin.

Five cities were captured in the ground toward the Hindenburg line. This sweep gained constitutes an advance of about a mile and a half from the recently won line of battle against the Teutons.

The towns occupied by the British in the advance today were Hondoucourt, St. Emelle, Vermand, Marteville and Soyécourt.

Vermand is the most important of the towns occupied by the British. It lies about midway between Peronne and St. Quentin on one of the main highways.

PARIS, March 31. After a brief lull the French have renewed their assaults against the German positions between the Oise and Aisne rivers.

Successful attacks were delivered against the German lines south of the Ailette river, says the official communiqué of the French War Office today.

General Nivelle's men made good progress extending their lines eastward in the direction of Laon, where the "pocketing" movement has been underway for some time.

There has been fighting in the sector of St. Gobain Forest.

Five German counter-attacks were delivered in Champagne yesterday, but all were repulsed. Not only did the Germans fail to recapture the ground previously lost to the French, but they sustained heavy losses, says the War Office.

The text of the communiqué follows: Near Bény, between the Somme and the Aisne, there has been heavy bombardment. On the Neuville-Margival-Vregny front, south of the Ailette

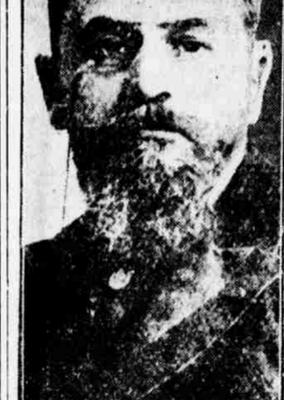
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FRANCE HAILS PATRIOTIC MEETING IN PHILADELPHIA AS WORLD EVENT

By LEON BOURGEOIS

Special Cablegram to Evening Ledger.

Senator of the Republic of France, former Prime Minister, ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs, ex-officio of four other portfolios in French Cabinets and now holding the recently created Ministry of Labor in the French Cabinet.



LEON BOURGEOIS

THE great fitness of Independence Square for a mammoth patriotic demonstration in favor of the United States entering the war with Germany is of magnificent significance.

It seems to me that this meeting of the citizens of the city that was the birthplace of American independence in the shadow of the historic building dependence was proclaimed and within the shadow of the historic building wherein the pioneers of American liberty pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to the cause of liberty one hundred and forty-seven years ago, will re-echo around the globe.

Your assembly beside the old Liberty Bell will ring it forth again in a clarion note of profound encouragement to France and the nations fighting against Germanic barbarity in the cause of justice, equity, civilization and liberty.

I believe that to be the sentiment of France and the French people, perhaps about to see their ancient friendship with the United States recentered in a common resistance against the monstrous German intent at throttling that which all free men throughout the world hold dearer than their lives. I wish the meeting the great success its importance deserves.

Paris, March 31.

QUICK NEWS

BASEBALL SCORES

Table with baseball scores for Penn Varsity and Penn Scrub.

ONE KILLED, ANOTHER HURT BY TRAIN

One man is dead and another seriously injured as a result of being struck by an express train on the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad at Seventeenth street and Indiana avenue.

WASHINGTON, March 31. The Danish West Indies, renamed Virgin Islands, at 11 o'clock today were formally turned over by Denmark to the United States Government.

Danish Minister Brun received from Secretary of State Lansing, at the State Department, a draft for \$25,000,000, the purchase price of the islands, drawn upon the United States Treasury and signed by President Wilson, Secretary Lansing and Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo.

Secretary Daniels then dispatched a message announcing the formal transfer to Captain E. T. Pollock, United States Navy, at Charlotte Amalie, Island of St. Thomas, where the Danish flag was to be hauled down and the Stars and Stripes raised for the first time above the Government buildings.

Secretary Daniels' message to Pollock, who is Acting Naval Governor, follows: "You are authorized to take over the islands in the name of the United States."

The message was accompanied by the following order from Minister Brun to the Danish Governor: "You are authorized to deliver the islands in the name of the King."

The messages were sent by wireless to New York, thence by cable to Porto Rico, thence by wireless to Charlotte Amalie, being delivered within twenty minutes.

DUGEY WILL PLAY SECOND FOR PHILS

Moranmen Take Final Workout at St. Pete Before Starting North

M'GAFFIGAN WILL STAY

By a Staff Correspondent.

COFFEE POT PARK, ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., March 31.

Until the 9 o'clock "choo choo" steams out of here headed north on Sunday night, the Phillies will be joy riders, so to speak, instead of hardened or rapidly hardening athletes.

They wound up their practice here today for the year, shortly after noon with nothing to do the remainder of their stay except to enjoy themselves. It was a successful trip so far as the players are concerned, as they could never have gotten better training weather than they have had this year.

All are hoping they are not struck out by a cold snap or a blizzard on the way north, as has happened before on barnstorming tours.

Pat had his entire squad of flingers at work this morning and nearly all of them were turned loose, firing horseshoe projectiles at the batmen. The latter swung their sticks more often than they have at any drill here this season. It was such a warm day for training that any man who couldn't get up a splendid sweat would have had to be a hopeless anemic.

Instead of loading up his system with medicine, Killefer, who has a bad cold, put on a heavy sweater and worked behind the plate for more than half an hour. When Killefer left the field he looked as though he had been in the steam room of a Turkish bath.

Bancroft was on the disabled list this morning. He was still suffering much trouble in his groin. His complaint appeared to be yielding to treatment.

According to the way Manager Moran now sizes up the situation, Oscar Dugey will be at second base when the Phillies take the field on opening day at Brooklyn against the National League champions.

Pat considers that it will be impossible for Niehoff to get into condition by that time, even should Bert come into the fold. As a fielder Dugey should fill the bill, but

STATE BOARD HEARS ROADS IN RATE PLEA

Pennsylvania Representative Tells Commission Expenses Are Up \$42,600,000 a Year

The need for a general advance in railroad freight rates on account of the recent increases in the costs of fuel, materials, labor and taxes, and the reduced efficiency of labor, was explained in detail before the Public Service Commission of Pennsylvania today at the Bellevue-Stratford by George D. Dixon, of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

The advance, said Mr. Dixon, should be at least 15 per cent in all classes and commodity freight rates and fifteen cents per ton on bituminous coal, coke and ores.

Among the items of increased running expenses of the Pennsylvania Railroad system for the current year over last year, as estimated by Mr. Dixon, were the following: Fuel coal, \$10,200,000 increase; materials and supplies, \$11,900,000; wages on account of the Adamson law, \$13,000,000 increase; wage adjustments for employees other than trainmen, \$7,400,000; taxes, \$500,000; making a total increase in operating expenses of \$42,600,000 a year.

In regard to the reduced efficiency of labor, Mr. Dixon said: "It is the experience of the Pennsylvania Railroad that, even with the increased rates of pay, there is a constant change and unrest in the forces of labor which reduces the efficiency and production received per dollar expended."

Others who spoke before the commission were A. W. Thompson, of the Traffic Department of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad; John F. Auch, traffic manager of the Philadelphia and Reading, and George Stuart Patterson, representing all the railroads operating in the State.

AMERICAN FLAG FLIES OVER VIRGIN ISLANDS

Lansing Pays Denmark With \$25,000,000 Draft Signed by President Wilson

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PATRIOTIC AIRS SOUND AGAIN AT LIBERTY SHRINE

High School Boys March in Inspiring Demonstration

SQUARE IS THROGGED AT LOYALTY MEETING

Youthful Paraders Sing Nation's Songs and Wave Banners, Old and New

NO CLOUD MARS DAY

Every Inch of Space Taken Long Before Hour of Speechmaking

By M'LISS

The picturesque valley of Independence Square, peopled with thousands who today jammed the ropes two hours before the great loyalty celebration was scheduled to begin, sent up a mighty shout when hundreds of high school boys led by a guard of policemen encircled the hall, singing their school songs through megaphones.

From out the windows of those municipal mountains—the Curtis, the Ledger, the Penn Mutual and the Drexel Buildings, flags of all ages fluttered—some new ones bought especially for this memorable occasion, others old ones which have taken part in other great demonstrations that have been written into the history of the nation.

The boys were the first organized body to arrive. They sang their songs with a spirit and patriotism that put new meaning into them.

"Dear High, dear Central High, Thy mottoes never die, Thy honor we will cherish, And laud it to the sky, On battlefield and in life, In peace or deadly strife, For thee, thy sons will labor, For thee, oh Central High."

The words "In peace or deadly strife" were taken up by a thousand trembling voices.

BOYS PARADE

Round and about the boys marched, carrying pennants of all the high schools, plus those of Temple and La Salle Universities.

A sky of summer blue, in which there were no specks of cloud to emphasize the cloud that now envelops the nation, framed the pulse-quickening scene. A brilliant sun set down rays as warm as those of a June day. Overcoats came off; shirt sleeves—a real day, coming up to all specifications.

Long before the bell on the old tower struck one, the reserved seats in the stands were filled.

Only the five pretentious chairs recruited from the Mayor's office for the distinguished speakers remained empty until the appointed time.

The deep-toned tolling of the bell which sent to all factories and churches in the city by means of its reverberations the instruction to sound their whistles and bells inspired a thrill in the breasts of those assembled.

The arrival of the G. A. R. veterans was the signal for prolonged handclapping.

And the blazing color of the square was enhanced by the distribution of 200 flag pamphlets distributed by Mrs. E. T. Stotesbury.

WOMEN ON SCENE

Among the first women to arrive was Mrs. Hiram Johnson, smiling and chic in a dark blue fur-trimmed suit and black coat with waving ostrich plumes. She was accompanied by Mrs. James Starr, Jr., Mrs. J. Willis Martin, Mrs. John C. Groome, Mrs. Harry C. Boyer, Mrs. Thomas Robins, Mrs. George Wentworth Carr and Miss Carr.

Not a little cheer was felt by the marching club who, headed by the Chamber of Commerce, came to the square—or tried to—by the scores. They found the people, unorganized, had arrived before them and filled every nook, cranny and crevice of the place. They spread out, a fan of humanity radiating from the hall into the bystreets and alleys as far as the eye could see—a crowd that trembled with patriotic fervor and swallowed hard when the Police Band opened the music program with the "Star Spangled Banner."

Thousands of throats took up the strain, thousands of flags fluttered out, making a sea of waving color.

"Hail, Philadelphia, the Cradle of Liberty," a rousing song, written especially for the occasion, was sung by the Philadelphia Quartet, composed of Harry Hooper, Fred Anger, James Kane and William Fagan.

HOT SPRINGS RACES OFF

Fire in Stands Causes Postponement of Program Until Monday

HOT SPRINGS, March 31.—Racing at Essex Park was called off today after fire had destroyed the grandstand, president's and judges' stand. Today's program will be run off Monday at Oaklawn course, where the rest of the meeting will be conducted. The loss is estimated at \$20,000.

WILKES-BARRE CALLS MASS-MEETING

WILKES-BARRE, Pa., March 31.—Mayor John V. Kosok issued a proclamation today calling for a mass-meeting on April 5 to pass resolutions urging Congress to safeguard the country and provide universal military training. The Mayor named a committee of twenty-seven to assist him.

THE WEATHER

FORECAST For Philadelphia and vicinity—Increasing cloudiness, followed by unsettled weather late tonight and Sunday; warmer tonight and colder Sunday afternoon and night; fresh south to west winds.

LENGTHS OF DAY Sun rises... 6:47 a.m. | Moon sets... 7:16 p.m. Sun sets... 6:53 p.m. | Moon rises... 5:23 a.m.

DELAWARE RIVER THE CHANNEL

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